

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method for identifying a compound capable of treating a pain or a painful disorder, comprising:

a) combining a compound to be tested with a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

~~i) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has sulfotransferase activity;~~

~~ii) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polypeptide has sulfotransferase activity;~~

~~iii)~~ i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

~~iv)~~ ii) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

under conditions suitable for binding of the test compound to the polypeptide; and

b) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide to thereby identify a compound which binds to the polypeptide,

thereby identifying a compound capable of treating a pain or a painful disorder.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of a small molecule, a peptide or an antibody.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide further comprises heterologous sequences.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is an isolated polypeptide, a membrane-bound form of an isolated polypeptide or an intracellular ~~a cell~~ comprising the polypeptide.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is a disorder associated with aberrant nociception.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is pain.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of: a) a competition binding assay; b) an immunoassay; and c) a yeast two-hybrid assay.

8-23. (canceled)